

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) An encapsulation device for the repair of an articular cartilage defect, the device comprising:

a body having a generally annular frame supporting therein a solid shell-like metal cover portion for disposition adjacent a bone in an area of the cartilage defect;

an elongated leg structure comprising a plurality of elongated leg members, each extending from a distal side of said body for disposition in the bone in the area of the cartilage defect, said leg ~~structure~~ members each having a length which is a plurality of magnitudes greater than a thickness of said body, and being of a generally conical configuration;

said ~~body~~ annular frame comprising a peripheral frame portion, and ~~an~~ said cover portion being integral with said frame portion ~~an integral cover portion and~~ disposed within said frame ~~portion~~ and of a configuration bowed proximally to always provide a bowed proximal end profile for engagement by a complementary-shaped tool head, and adapted to maintain that profile during engagement of said body with the tool head; and

~~said leg structure comprising a plurality of elongated leg members extending from a distal side of said frame portion;~~

each of said leg members being provided with a central channel therein, each of the channels opening on a proximal side of said frame ~~member~~ and extending to a point ~~removed from~~ proximate a closed distal end of said leg member;

wherein at least one of said leg members is provided at a distal end thereof with an end portion enlarged beyond a periphery of said leg member at a proximal end of the end portion and a generally crested end portion at a distal end of the end

portion.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein each of said leg member end portions comprises a circumferential protrusion thereon for gripping the bone.

4-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein said peripheral frame portion bounds said cover portion.

10-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The encapsulation device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the device is of a selected one of (i) bioabsorbable material and (ii) bioremodelable material.

17. (Original) The encapsulation device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the device is impregnated with cell growth material.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for effecting a repair to an articular cartilage defect, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an encapsulation device comprising a body for disposition adjacent a bone in an area of the cartilage defect, and an elongated leg structure comprising a plurality of elongated leg members extending from the body for disposition in the bone in the area of the cartilage defect, the elongated leg structure comprising ~~at least one leg~~ legs each provided with a central channel therein, the channel being open on a proximal side of the frame member and being closed at the distal end thereof;

the body comprising a peripheral circular frame portion and a shell-like metal cover portion fixed within the frame portion and of a configuration bound bowed proximally therefrom to provide a bowed proximal surface, such that a central portion of the cover portion always extends proximally further than a peripheral portion of the cover portion-;

producing an elongated hole in the bone for each leg of the encapsulation device leg structure; and

driving each leg of the leg structure of the encapsulation device into the hole provided therefore in the bone to bring a distal surface of the bowed encapsulation device body into adjacency with the bone.